The Fudge Solomon Legacy Society: From Humble Beginnings to National Leader

In 1983 a small group of parents of children with hydrocephalus met in San Francisco. Led by Emily Fudge, they formed the Neurosurgery Parent Support Group. Soon after, in 1984, the Hydrocephalus Foundation of Northern California was created. An office was set up in the Fudge residence, and the first Medical Advisory Board was established, with clinicians who had ties to UCSF. Emily Fudge and Cynthia Solomon assumed major leadership roles in developing the new organization. Inspired by their sons, Gerard Fudge and Alex Solomon, both of whom had hydrocephalus, they were determined to make a difference for other parents and people affected by this poorly understood brain condition.

Providing support and education was the first priority in those early days. The organization held support group meetings, annual picnics, and biennial conferences and published a variety of fact sheets and brochures about hydrocephalus, as well as a quarterly newsletter. In 1991, the organization’s name was changed to the Hydrocephalus Association, reflecting a national focus and expanded work to include hydrocephalus in young adults and older patients with normal pressure hydrocephalus. Over the next two decades, the Association broadened its mission and reach to include advocacy and, more recently, research.

As we look to the future we are inspired by our founders and by the outpouring of generosity that fuels our work. Together, we will make a difference for everyone affected by hydrocephalus.

Since 1983, thanks to the generosity of friends like you, the Hydrocephalus Association has provided education and support to thousands of people coping with hydrocephalus. In 2009, with an expanded mission to eliminate the challenges of hydrocephalus, the Hydrocephalus Association launched a Research Initiative to improve the lives of people with hydrocephalus, and eventually find a cure.

Join the Fudge Solomon Legacy Society Types of Bequests:

**Specific Bequest:** This gift can be a specific dollar amount or asset, such as "I give $10,000 to the Hydrocephalus Association for its general purposes."

**Residuary Bequest:** This gift can be all or a percentage of your estate after expenses are taken care of and gifts to loved ones have been made. For example: "I leave 10 percent of the remainder of my estate to the Hydrocephalus Association."

**Contingent Bequest:** This gift instructs that all or a portion of your estate will go to the Hydrocephalus Association only if your other beneficiaries do not survive you.
The Hydrocephalus Association is in this fight for the long term. We are inspired and humbled by the incredible commitment of the thousands of people who give time, money, and wisdom to fuel the hydrocephalus cause. Participation in the Fudge Solomon Legacy Society is another great opportunity to make a difference.

**Where Your Donation Goes**

**Education and Support:**
Each year the Hydrocephalus Association provides information and support to thousands of people. Using a variety of means—from support groups and phone support to social media and our website—our goal is to help people find answers and enable them to make the very best decisions for their families.

**Research:**
Launched in 2009, the Hydrocephalus Association Research Initiative seeks to improve outcomes for individuals coping with hydrocephalus and eventually find a cure. Our research strategy includes supporting clinical research to improve treatments, providing incentives to young scientists to take up the hydrocephalus cause, and supporting basic research to improve our understanding and make progress towards a cure.

**Advocacy:**
The Hydrocephalus Association's advocacy strategy spans a broad range of activities, from local grassroots awareness efforts such as our WALK program, to state-level efforts to establish hydrocephalus awareness days/months, to our federal efforts that focus on research programs at the National Institutes of Health and legislation with Congress. Our primary advocacy goal is to ensure that the federal government is investing adequate funds to accomplish the following to:

- Understand the breadth and depth of the impact of hydrocephalus on our people
- Make funding hydrocephalus research for improved treatments and cures a priority
- Support those affected by hydrocephalus with appropriate programs

*Donors may choose to make their donations for general purposes or to provide a restricted gift to any of the above programs.*
The Hydrocephalus Association's mission is to eliminate the challenges of hydrocephalus by stimulating innovative research and providing support and education for individuals, families and professionals dealing with the condition.

About the Hydrocephalus Association
As the largest nonprofit organization dedicated to hydrocephalus, we seek to improve the quality of life for people with hydrocephalus by finding preventions and cures. With a new ambitious research agenda, the Association is on a path to make a difference for every individual and family affected by hydrocephalus. Your support will help us realize this vision. For more information about the Hydrocephalus Association and our programs, go to our website at www.hydroassoc.org.

For more information on how to make a bequest, please call the Development Office at 888-598-3789.